

Aaron Stene  
73-4181 Malino Place  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740



EX PARTE OR ~~LATE~~ FILED

96-45

Michael J. Copps  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002

Dear Mr. Michael J. Copps,

I urge you look into the matter of USDA RUS and Universal Service Funds being used to build a fiber-optic network in Hawaii, that will benefit **only** Hawaiians living on Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Under Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/cor/condolexi.htm> **federal funds cannot be used to fund programs or activities that discriminate on race, color, or national origin.** Thus this project by Sandwich Isles Communications Corporation is a violation of federal law, because its receiving federal funds and discriminating on whom can use this network when its fully functional. Also this project is a violation of the USDA non-discrimination statement. <http://www.usda.gov/about/homelandis/>.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Stene

Confirmed

JAN 13 2003

Distribution Center

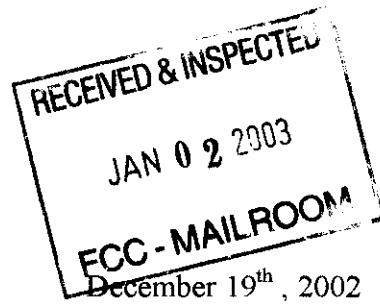
No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Aaron Stene  
73-4181 Malino Place  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Kathleen Abernathy  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554



Dear Ms. Kathleen Abernathy,

I urge you look into the matter of USDA RUS and Universal Service Funds being used to build a fiber-optic network in Hawaii, that will benefit **only** Hawaiians living on Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Under Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/cr/c and titlevi.htm>  
**federal funds cannot be used to fund programs or activities that discriminate on race, color, or national origin.** Thus this project by Sandwich Isles Communications Corporation is a violation of federal law, because its receiving federal funds and discriminating on whom can use this network when its fully functional. Also this project is a violation of the USDA non-discrimination statement. <http://www.usda.gov/about/homelands/>.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Stene

Confirmed

JAN 13 2003

Distribution Center

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE



# Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.

A Waimana Company

## Sandwich Isles Communications Network for Hawaiian Home Lands Fact Sheet (6-30-02)

**Company Description:** Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. (SIC) is a rural telephone company with a license to provide service to Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). Its mission is to provide modern, next generation, high-speed broadband telecommunications services to Hawaiian homestead lands. SIC was founded in 1995, and has been serving DHHL since 1998.

**SIC Operations:** SIC is certified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a rural local exchange carrier (RLEC). It is authorized by the State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to provide telecommunications service on Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. As a rural telephone company, SIC is eligible for Universal Service Fund support to build and operate a telecommunications network and service rural areas, specifically DHHL. Since SIC initiated services and became operational in 1998, it has invested over \$50 million in facilities, digital switching and related equipment and services.

**Network Description:** The SIC network will tie together DHHL areas on the six major Hawaiian Islands. It will be independent of any existing networks owned and operated by other current providers in the State of Hawaii. The SIC network will stretch 1,500 miles over land and undersea. The submarine portion of the network will connect the six major islands with primary and alternate routes. On land, the network will be completely underground, also with primary and alternate routes. This system of building both primary and alternate routes will create intra-state redundancy and ensure reliability for high quality service.

**Project Financing:** The value of the SIC project is estimated at over \$400 million. The project is financed by long term, low interest federal loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Its mission is to promote and financially support the development of utility infrastructure and services in rural America, so that everyone in rural and insular areas has affordable access to emergency essential and modern utility conveniences comparable to the level available in urban areas. SIC will also invest private funds to enhance the network's service and reliability. SIC will repay the RUS loans with subscriber revenues and payments from the Universal Service Fund, a private fund administered by the FCC. Because of the availability of federal loans to build the telecommunications infrastructure, no state funds are necessary.

**Benefits to Hawaii:** A modern, broadband fiber optic system will provide rural areas of Hawaii with essential telecommunications services at affordable rates. It would also allow underserved DHHL homesteaders to access new interactive services such as telemedicine, educational programming, video and data transmissions, and the Internet. Because SIC is participating in a federal loan program to build out the telecommunications network, no funds are needed from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. This allows DHHL to dedicate more funds to build modern infrastructure for its remote parcels, promoting economic development and accelerating the availability of its properties for residential and commercial use.

Contact: Barbara J. Tanabe, Ho'akea  
Tel 808-539-3581, Fax 808-599-4653  
Email [bar@hawaii.net](mailto:bar@hawaii.net)